

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed on May 14, 2008. Claims 1-20 and 23-31 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 16, and 23-28 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 30 and 31 are new. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that independent claim 29 is allowed. In view of the following remarks, as well as the foregoing amendments, Applicants submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance in this regard.

Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-23 and 26 over Ohtake

Claims 1-23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,039,918 to Ohtake et al. (hereinafter *Ohtake*). The Examiner contends that *Ohtake* shows or teaches all the elements of the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, and independent claim 12, as amended, set forth “a pair of waveguides each directly coupling a respective one of said pair of magnetrons to said microwave chamber.” In contrast, *Ohtake* discloses “a microwave-coupling means for feeding microwaves from waveguides 6 into the microwave cavity 2 comprises a wave-shaped antenna 17 closely disposed on both sides of and parallel to the lamp 1.” In contrast and as explained on page 7 of Applicants' specification, direct coupling means that the microwaves from “‘dumped’, i.e., directly coupled without restriction into the chamber 14 without the use of coupling slots, antennas or other coupling structures.” *See also* page 5 of Applicants' specification. As explained on page 4 of Applicants' specification, “[t]he direct ‘dumping’ of the microwave energy into the microwave chamber enhances the starting ability of the light source as well as reducing the formation of potentially damaging zones of concentrated microwave energy near the ends of the plasma bulb.”

In order for a reference to anticipate the invention in a claim, the reference must teach each and every element in the precise arrangement set forth in the claim. If the reference fails to teach even one of the claimed elements, the reference does not and cannot anticipate the claimed

invention. Because *Ohtake* fails to disclose a pair of microwave generators “directly” coupled to the microwave chamber, *Ohtake* fails to anticipate independent claims 1 and 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Because claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1 and claims 13-20 depend from independent claim 12, Applicants submit these claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above. Furthermore, these claims recite unique combinations of elements not disclosed or suggested by *Ohtake*.

Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended dependent claims 23 and 26 to depend from an allowed independent claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 23 and 26.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 24, 25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ohtake* in view of U.S. Patent No. RE32,626 to Yoshizawa et al. (hereinafter *Yoshizawa*). Applicants have amended these claims to depend from an allowed independent claim 29. Furthermore, these dependent claims each recite a unique combination of elements not disclosed or suggested by the combination of *Yoshizawa* with *Ohtake*.

New Claims

Claims 30 and 31 are submitted as new claims. Because claim 30 depends directly from independent claim 1 and claim 31 depends directly from independent claim 12, Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, dependent claims 30 and 31 each recite a unique combination of elements not disclosed or suggested by the references of record.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is

earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in connection with filing this communication. If, however, any petition or additional fees are necessary because of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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